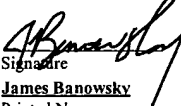
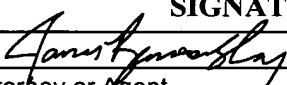


TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>		Application Number		09/641,489	
		Filing Date		August 17, 2000	
		First Named Inventor		Anish K. Arora	
		Group Art Unit		2121	
		Examiner Name		Barnes, Crystal J.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sent via Express Mail Label No.: EV 671530095 US		Attorney Docket Number		141388.04	

ENCLOSURES <i>(check all that apply)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO/SB/08A (pages) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Notice to File Missing Parts <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the Notice to File Missing Parts Under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.5	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers <i>(for an Application)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (sheets) <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration <input type="checkbox"/> Newly Executed (pages) <input type="checkbox"/> A copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (pages) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Power of Attorney (SB80) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) __	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request for Corrected Filing Receipt with copies of previously submitted communications to the USPTO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) <i>(please identify below):</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Issue Fee Transmittal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy of this transmittal form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Express Mail Certificate <input type="checkbox"/>

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION (Under 37 CFR § 1.8(a)) I hereby certify that this correspondence is being: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as Express mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; or <input type="checkbox"/> transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the USPTO at (571) _____. Date <u>August 24, 2005</u> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Signature James Banowsky Printed Name </div> <div style="width: 300px;"> Remarks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-0463 for the above identified patent application. </div> </div>	
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SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OR AGENT					
Signature 		Reg. No. 37,773			
Name of Attorney or Agent		James Banowsky			
Date	August 14, 2005	Tel.	(425) 705-3539	Facsimile No.	(425) 708-5046
Assignee Name:		MICROSOFT CORPORATION ONE MICROSOFT WAY REDMOND, WA 98052			
Customer Number:		22971			





PATENT
Docket No.: **141388.04**

IN THE UNITED STATE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventorship : **Anish K. Arora**)
Applicant : **Microsoft Corporation**)
Serial No. : **09/641,489**)
Filed : **08/17/2000**)
For : **Automation System for**)
Controlling and Monitoring)
Devices and Sensors)

Examiner:
Barnes, Crystal J.

Art Unit:
2121

Customer No : **22971**

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

Express Mail Mailing Label No.: EV 671530095 US

I hereby certify that the attached:

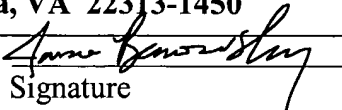
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Transmittal (in duplicate) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments on Statement of Reasons |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Express Mail Certificate | for Allowance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Power of Attorney (SB/80) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request for Corrected Filing Receipt |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> § 3.73(b) Statement w/ Assignment copy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Issue Fee Transmittal (in duplicate) | |

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 24, 2005

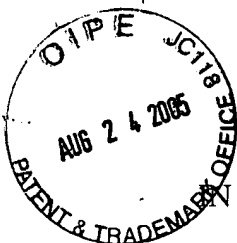
Date



Signature

James Banowsky

Printed Name



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of)	
)	
ANISH K. ARORA ET AL.)	
)	
Serial No.: 09/641,489)	Group Art Unit: 2121
)	
Filed: 8/17/2000)	Examiner: Crystal J. Barnes
)	
For: AUTOMATION SYSTEM FOR)	Attorney Docket No.: 1018.050US1 /
CONTROLLING AND)	141388.04
MONITORING DEVICES AND)	
SENSORS)	

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

BOX ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of the present application, provided by the Notice of Allowance issued on May 24, 2005.

The Applicant wishes to clarify that the Reasons for Allowance refer to just one of multiple features that distinguish the allowed claims 1, 21, 23, 29, 30, 31, 33 and 35 over the references of record. For example, the Reasons for Allowance characterize one such feature as "a soft-state store to manage at least periodic refresh information for the plurality of devices and the plurality of device objects, the refresh information managed by the soft-state store as a plurality of soft-state variables." This feature is recited in claims 1, 21, 23, 29, 31, 33, and 35 in various scopes, which are in no way limited by the characterizations included in the Reasons for Allowance.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the characterization of the allowed claims, as set forth in the Notice of Allowability, provides a generalized characterization of the aforementioned claims, and therefore should not be interpreted as presenting an accurate interpretation of the scope of any of the respective allowed claims.

Favorable consideration of the present comments on the statement of reasons for allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: James R. Lee (37,773)
LS ✓

David S. Lee
Registration No. 38,222

August 24, 2005

Microsoft Corp.
Patent Department
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA 98052-8300